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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Washington, D.C. 20036  
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**COMMISSIONERS:**  
Thomas C. Brennan  
Douglas E. Coulter  
Mary Lou Burg  
Clarence L. James, Jr.  
Frances Garcia

November 28, 1979

Mr. Paul Smith  
409 Woodland Way  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you very much for your November 22 letter.

Please know that when the issue of the mechanical royalty rate comes before the Tribunal next year we will take your concerns into very active consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Douglas Coulter  
Chairman

Attn: Doug Coulter

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—  
SANTA CRUZ 95060

Paul Smith  
409 Woodland Way  
Santa Cruz, Ca.  
95060

Nov. 22, 1979

Sirs,

Do not be fooled by propaganda from the big record companies. They will tell you that they are in dire straits, and that paying artists a commensurate return for their contribution to their product (in fact the product is merely a frame for the more important contribution) will seriously endanger the value of the American dollar on the world market. Don't believe it. A quick comparison between the state of the art now and 10 years ago will yield an ugly picture of corruption and stagnation that is not in keeping with the image that this Big Business attempts to project. A return to the old 2-cent rate for statutory copyright royalty would be an insult to the songwriters, composers, and lyricists, who by nature of their artistry greatly enhance the American quality of life. I urge a raise of 30 cents, retroactive to the turn of the century. It is degrading for American artists to be so undervalued. For a better America, for a better world— take care of your own.

Sincerely,

Paul Smith

Paul Smith  
409 Woodland Way  
Santa Cruz, Calif.  
95060

Nov. 20, 1979

Mr. Brennan:

In 1980 you will have the opportunity to influence the quality of life in America. By raising the paltry percentage allowed songwriters, composers, and lyricists to a level commensurate with their contribution, you will keep alive a spirit of creative energy that has been badly damaged by the single-mindedly monetary objectives of the big record companies. I hope you will not be swayed by the persuasive tactics that the record lobbyists are sure to employ full force. It is degrading for American artists to be so undervalued. For a better America and a better world—take care of your own.

Sincerely,

*Paul Smith*